Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs starting on page 13 of the amended specification, line 29 to page 14, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- Figure 1 shows a simplified flowchart with an interleaver before rate matching (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 2 shows interleaving and puncturing patterns for puncturing of four bits per frame (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 3 shows interleaving and shifted puncturing patterns for puncturing of four bits per frame (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 4 shows interleaving and shifted puncturing patterns for puncturing with a puncturing ratio of 10% (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 5 shows a simplified illustration of transport channels (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 6 shows interleaving and shifted puncturing patterns for puncturing of four bits per frame (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 7 shows a block diagram of a mobile radio communications system (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 8 shows a block diagram of a data communications arrangement, which forms a path between the mobile station and a base station in the communications network shown in Figure 7 (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 9 shows puncturing patterns for shifted puncturing patterns for puncturing of two bits per frame (prior art)~~.~~;

Figure 10 shows a simplified illustration of the principle of puncturing which is optimized in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention~~.~~;

Figure 11 shows a reference table~~.~~;

Figure 12 shows puncturing patterns for puncturing with a puncturing ratio of 20%~~.~~;

Figure 13 shows puncturing patterns for puncturing with a puncturing ratio of 1:8~~.~~;

Figure 14 shows puncturing patterns for puncturing with an odd number of bits to be punctured per frame~~.~~; and --

Please add the following paragraph after line 25 on page 14 of the amended specification:

-- Figure 15 shows puncturing patterns under an alternate exemplary embodiment. --

Please add the following paragraph after page 19, line 13, of the amended specification:

-- Under an alternate embodiment, an optimized first interleaver may be used, with a simple second interleaver and a simple puncturing method being used. Under this embodiment, an optimized interleaver can distribute bits such that the puncturing of blocks of bits after the interleaving will distribute these punctured bits uniformly before interleaving. Previously, puncturing after a simple first interleaver has shown that this is not an easy task. Since the individual interleaver could be optimized for all puncturing rates, it is very difficult to achieve good characteristics. The reason for this is exemplified in the puncturing patterns of Figure 15, where, the patterns for n+1 bits must be identical to the puncturing pattern for n bits, although an additional bit can be chosen for puncturing. If the puncturing pattern is good for n bits (see the first line in the table in Figure 15), then it is extremely difficult to achieve an optimum distribution of nil bits (last line) irrespective of which specific bit is additionally punctured in order to obtain n+1 bits (second line). Furthermore, such an interleaver would need to be a compromise between good puncturing characteristics for block puncturing and, at the same time, good general interleaving characteristics (for example in order to achieve good transmission characteristics for transmission via fading channels). Since, previously, no such method and no such interleaver are known, the method described in the present application is particularly advantageous, in which puncturing is carried out after a simple first interleaver with a subsequent second interleaver with optimized interleaving characteristics. --